

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 30, 2004. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

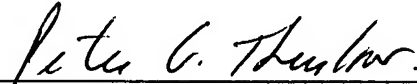
The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0017459 A1 (Kawaguchi et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that priority document no. 2002/201762 was filed on July 10, 2002, which is before the effective date of June 17, 2003 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0017459 (Kawaguchi et al.), from which this case claims priority. Applicants are preparing a sworn translation of Japanese Application No. 2002/201762 and will submit it shortly to the Office.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter G. Thurlow", is written over a horizontal line.

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